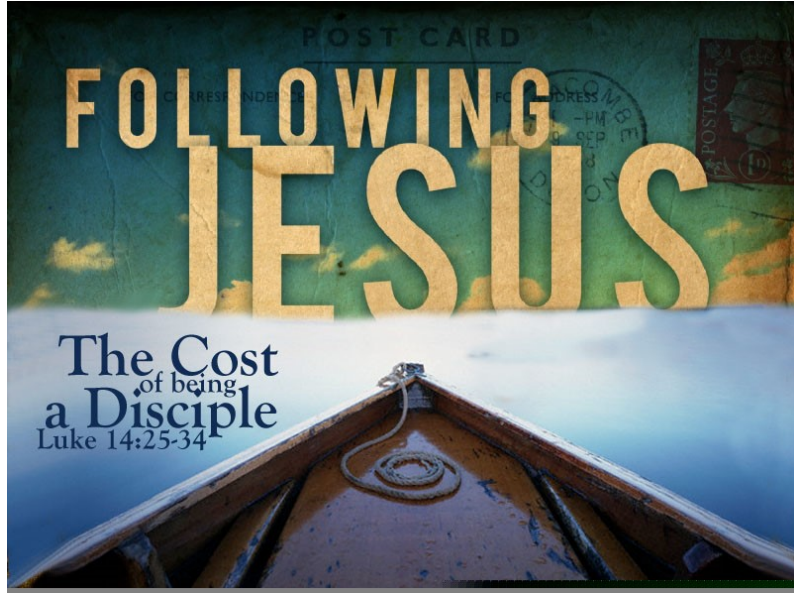




St. John Lutheran Church

2888 W Houghton
Lake Dr
Houghton Lake,
MI 48629
989-366-5164

9:00 - Traditional



January 29, 2023

Welcome

to St. John Lutheran Church and our Traditional Worship Service. We are so glad you have chosen to join us today and we pray your time with us will fill you with the love our Lord has for you.

Today's service includes the Lord's Supper. If you are a first-time visitor and wish to receive Holy Communion, please speak with one of our Elders or myself prior to service.

May God bless your worship with us today,
Paul Kruse, Pastor

E-mail: paul@stjohnhl.com

Mobile: 989-992-6030

*Compelled by the Love of Christ to Live,
Learn, Share, and Serve'*

*Our Vision is to inspire the vibrant experience of
Christian faith in our community, to all
generations, wherever they may be'*

As We Gather

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany

Divine Service Four (pp 203ff)

A Time of Preparation

Prelude

Welcome and Sharing of the Peace

Opening Song

"Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" LSB 904

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word
We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred
Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,
Drawn from earth to love You solely.
All our knowledge, sense, and sight
Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night
With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;
You must work all good within us.
Gracious Savior, good and kind,
Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;
Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;
Hear and bless our prayers and praises.
Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,
Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,

Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Your praises yonder.

Invocation

LSB 203

P In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination

P Almighty God,

C **Have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.**
Amen.

P Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

P For the Lord knows the way of the righteous,

C **but the way of the wicked will perish.**

P Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked,

- C** nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers;
P but his delight is in the law of the Lord,
C and on his law he meditates day and night.
P He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season,
and its leaf does not wither.
C In all that he does, he prospers.
P The wicked are not so,
C but are like chaff that the wind drives away.
P Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
C nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy *(Sung)*

LSB 204

- C** Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Glory to God in the Highest *(Sung)*

LSB 204

- C** To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth; Goodwill from God
in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth! We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name we sing—Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God,
our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray; O Lamb of God,
our Savior, You take our sins away. Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive
our heartfelt cry, Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand
on high—

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord. Forever and forever, Be
worshiped and adored; You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most
High, In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

Prayer of the Day

- P** The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.
P Let us pray together...
C Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that
in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection
to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations;
through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with
You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-31

¹⁸ For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, it pleased God through the folly of what we preach to save those who believe.

²² For Jews demand signs and Greeks seek wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men. ²⁶ For consider your calling, brothers: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. ²⁷ But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong;

²⁸ God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, ²⁹ so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. ³⁰ And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, ³¹ so that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia *(Sung)*

LSB 205

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:3-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

³ “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.

⁵ “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

⁶“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

⁷“Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

⁸“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

⁹“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

¹⁰“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

LSB 206

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Children's Message

Message Song

“Jesus Sat with His Disciples” LSB 932

Jesus sat with His disciples
On a mountainside one day;
As the crowds of people gathered,
He began to teach and say:
“Blessèd are the poor in spirit,
Heaven’s kingdom they will share.
Blessèd are the sad and mourning,
Joy and comfort will be theirs.
“Blessèd are the meek and humble,
All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy,
They are bless’d and will be filled.
Yes, the merciful are blessèd,
Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessèd,
They have eyes for God alone.
“Blessèd are God’s sons and daughters,
Making peace where there is strife.
Blessèd are the persecuted,
Who for righteousness lose life;
Their reward is great in heaven,
In the kingdom up above—
So be glad to share My suff’ring
And rejoice to know My love.”

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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Message

“Risky Business”

Offering

Would you like to give online? Scan the QR code and it will take you directly to our donation site.



Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
- C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and proper . . . Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

Holy, Holy, Holy *(Sung)*

LSB 208

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Lord's Prayer

LSB 209

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:
- C** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

The Words of Our Lord

LSB 162

The Peace of the Lord

LSB 209

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C** **Amen.**

Lamb of God

LSB 210

- ☞ O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Distribution of the Holy Sacrament

The Lord gave this Holy Sacrament to His Church so that His followers might receive His love and forgiveness in a visible, tangible way. When the Church celebrates this Sacrament, believers are also making a public declaration of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 11:26). Holy Communion is offered every Sunday at St. John Lutheran, but because it is possible to receive the Lord's Supper to one's detriment (1 Cor. 11:27-29), we ask all who wish to partake of it to examine themselves as follows:

1. *Do I believe that I am a sinner and therefore deserve God's punishment?*
2. *Am I truly sorry that by my sins I have offended God?*
3. *Do I believe that God accepts the death of Jesus as payment for my sins and therefore forgives my sins for Jesus' sake alone and not because of any goodness or effort on my part?*
4. *Do I intend, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to turn from my sins?*
5. *Do I seek to forgive others as God has forgiven me?*
6. *Do I believe Christ's own Word that His body and blood are truly given and received in and with the bread and wine (Matt. 26:26-28)?*

If you have been baptized into the Christian faith and can answer "yes" to the above questions, you are invited to receive Holy Communion with the assurance of all the blessings Scripture promises.

Distribution Hymn

"You Are the Way; through You Alone" LSB 526

You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.

You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.

You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu'ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.

You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.

Text: Public domain

Song of Simeon *(Sung)*

LSB 211

☞ O Lord, now let Your servant Depart in heav'nly peace, For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill, The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

**All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son, All glory to the Spirit,
Forever Three in One; For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.**

Post-Communion Prayer

P Let us pray... We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

☞ Amen.

Closing Song

"Lift High the Cross" LSB 837

ref Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
Till all the world adore His sacred name.

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **Refrain**

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. **Refrain**

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. **Refrain**

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
Praise to the Crucified for victory! **Refrain**

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956, alt.
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Acknowledgments

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